

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated June 15, 2001. This response is filed to fulfill the requirements for filing a Petition to Revive the above-captioned application. As indicated in the accompanying Statement, no response is due, because the Patent Office is issuing a new Office Action. The facts are as follows:

On June 15, 2001, the Examiner issued a final Office Action indicating that claims 1-11 were rejected. On November 14, 2001 applicants conducted a telephone interview with Examiner Christian L. Fronda. The Interview Summary, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 1, states:

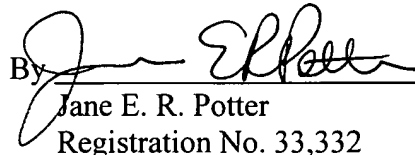
The Finality of the Office Action dated June 15, 2001, has been withdrawn. A new Office Action will be sent.

By mid-December (one month later), no Office Action had been received. On December 17, 2001, attorney David Parker conducted a telephone conference with Examiner Fronda, in which Examiner Fronda stated that applicants did not need to reply to the June 15, 2001 Office Action because a new Office Action would be issued shortly.

If Examiner Fronda had not indicated that the finality of the June 15, 2001 Office Action was being withdrawn, applicants would have filed a Notice of Appeal. Thus, a proper response to be filed with the accompanying Petition to Revive could include a Notice of Appeal. However, the case is not in condition for appeal because the Examiner is issuing a new Office Action.

If questions remain regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (206) 628-7650.

Respectfully submitted,
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